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I  
A  
SHORT ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
True State  
OF THE  
C A S E  
OF THE  
*SUEDISH* Merchant-Fleet,

Lately brought up, on their Voyage from  
*France*, by Admiral *Rooke*, and sent in-  
to *Plimouth*.

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L O N D O N,

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A  
 SHORT ACCOUNT  
 OF THE  
 True State  
 OF THE  
 C A S E  
 OF THE  
 S W E D I S H Merchant-Fleet, &c.

S. I. **W** Hereas the *Suedish* Merchant-Ships, lately taken as Prizes, upon their Voyage from *France*, and sent into *Plimouth* by Admiral *Rooke*, give Occasion to various Discourses and Judgments amongst States-men, as well as Merchants, 'tis hoped, that it will be no less acceptable to the Curious, than satisfactory to such as are well affected to Justice,

stice, to give an impartial and exact Account of the true State of the Case, to the end the World may be acquainted with the weighty and just Reasons for which the said Fleet was stop'd, and since has been judicially examin'd, and proceeded against; so that all who are not unconcern'd for the common Welfare, may be satisfied of the great and irreparable Damage the Allies have sustain'd by those Self-Interested People, that have been clandestinely aiding and assisting *France* in executing its Craft and Cunning, by imposing upon others.

§. II. In order to which, the Perusal of the ensuing Account will make us hereafter less solicitous in enquiring the true Reason, why *France* has been able to carry on so great and chargeable a War, against so powerful Enemies, with so much Vigour as it has done hitherto, at a Time when their Outward Trade (which ever has been accounted the Life of that Country, and the only Improvement of its Wealth) was, as generally believed, either much lessen'd, or, in respect to some Places, utterly lost.

§. III. For, in as much as the Unquestionable and Impartial Proofs which were brought to Light at the Trials of the said *Suedish* Merchant-Fleet, by the several *Suedish* Merchants own Letters, and Original Writings, do (tho' almost too late) make it evident, that *France*, in respect of its Trade, has been lessen'd in the Number of Shipping, but not in the Sales of their Commodities, and sending and conveying them to other Countries; whereby the *Suedes* have supplied the Want of their Ships, by furnishing the *French* with their own: So that the *French* have not so much lost off the Sale and Transportation of their Goods and Products, as chang'd the Way and Manner of it. All which did tend to the Unretrievable Damage of all the Allies, but especially of the *English*.

§. IV. *France*

S. IV. *France*, indeed, could find no more proper Method for holding up its Commerce to the East Countries, (where, by the Imperial Avocatorial Orders, all the Hanse-Towns are forbidden, upon great Penalties, to entertain the same,) than by engaging the *Suedes* to assist them therein, because the *French* Goods might, by that Means, be safely convey'd, in *Suedish* Ships; and under their Passes, on pretext of being *Suedish* Effects, Imported into the said Hanse-Towns, without the least Hindrance, or Molestation: Which did give no less Encouragement to the covetous Owners of the Ships, who, under that Colour of being *Suedes*, could save the Customs payable in the *Soundt*, than an Immenſe Advantage to the *French* Trade.

S. V. In which Subtilty of the *French*, the *Suedes* have been the easier prevail'd with to assist them, because they were sure they could do it with more Gain, and less Fear, than other Nations: Wherein, however, they were not satisfied to carry on this unlawful Trade only in those Towns, which, being situated in the Empire, belong to the Crown of *Suedeland*, as *Stetin*, *Stade*, *Wismar*, *Strafsund*, &c. contrary to the Imperial Avocatories publish'd against it; but they went on farther in it, and engaged also with Merchants of the Free Imperial Towns, viz. *Lubeck*, *Hambourgh*, *Emden*, and others; nay, (which is more particularly against the Treaties and solemn Convention with *England*) with the *French* themselves, to assist them in their Trade, not only in Trafficking with the East-Land Countries, but also in *France* it self, by conveying their Goods from one *French* Port to another, in *Suedish* Ships, and under the Favour of *Suedish* Passes, *sub & obrepretie* obtain'd for that purpose.

S. VI. And this foul and unlawful Practice has been, especially of late, manag'd with so much Art, that it is become a difficult



a difficult Matter to find out all the Tricks used therein, by reason of the equal Covetousness wherein the *Suede* did join with the other Merchant, his Correspondent, in improving their unlawful Gain; no Oath being so sacred with them, nor prevailing enough, to discover the Intrigue wherein they so closely adhered one to another; insomuch that the *Suede* oftentimes made no Scruple to lend only his Name to the Ship, and under that Colour, did get the Passes for its secure Voyage.

§. VII. But to facilitate the obtaining of the said Passes, they used the following Contrivance, viz. The *Suede* did build a Ship, of more or less Tuns, on his own Account; whereupon, he could safely make Oath before the Magistrate, that that same Ship was his own, and did really belong to him, and was built at his proper Cost and Charges; and thereupon he obtain'd a Pass for the said Ship, as being a *Suedish* Ship, built in *Suedeland*, and belonging to one of that King's Subjects. This being done, the *Suede* sold and transported the very same Ship to a *Dutch*, *Lubeck*, or *Hambourgh*-Merchant; who, in Consideration of the other's Service, did give him one Quarter, or Eighth Part, (as they could best agree upon) in the said Ship, on Condition that the *Suede* should always provide new Passes as often as there should be Occasion for them, and that the said Ship should always go under the *Suede's* Name, and by that Means traffick unmolested, to and with *France*: Which Practice, the *Suede* flatter'd himself, that he might securely enough continue, without acting thereby against his Conscience, or committing the least Perjury by so doing; there being no Occasion, according to the Custom and Laws of that Country, to make Oath a-fresh upon every other Voyage, for getting of new Passes, because the first Oath will suffice for good and ail: So that by this Mental Reservation, the *Suede* could obtain as many Passes as he pleas'd; and for all that, his Conscience

science not concern'd in the least thereby. Nay, By the Proofs made against the said *Suedish* Fleet, taken from their own Hand-writings, Books and Letters, now under Examination in the Court of Admiralty, it does manifestly appear, that, to take off all Suspicion, and to obviate all Objections and Dangers that might befall such a Ship, the Foreign Merchant order'd the *Suede* to make a Bill of Sale of the Ship, in the *Suede's* own Name, though he had not the least Right to the said Ship, nor did any Part therein belong to him.

§. VIII. Another Artifice has also been used, the more easily to obtain the Passes in *Stockholm*, viz. Some of those Foreign Merchants sent their Servants thither, to be there made Burghers *pro forma*; and by those Means they procur'd the Passes, although such Servant had neither Estate nor Money for himself, but was supply'd by his Master, who liv'd either in *Holland*, or *Lutec*, or *Hamburgh*, or elsewhere, upon whose Account this glorious Trade was carried on.

§. IX. This being the very Case of the *Suedish* Merchant-Fleet, now in Debate, as is manifest by examining the several Letters and Papers which have been found on Board the said Ships, in great Numbers, there being above *Four Hundred* material Letters and Papers to evidence the same, it is not credible that any Body should have Confidence enough to contradict so evident a Truth, unless it were one, who, together with his Conscience, has also lost all his Shame and Blushing.

§. X. In the mean time, these few following Authentick Extracts from some of the abovesaid great Numbers of Letters and Papers, together with other substantial Proofs, will be sufficient to justify a Sentence  
against

against this foul and vile Practice, hitherto used with France.

*Sequuntur Epistolæ sub finem additæ.*

Numb. 3. 5. 6. 7. 8. 11. 34. 35. 37. 39. 40. 45. 53. &c.

S. XI. By such, and the like Solid and most convincing Proofs, which partly appear by the foregoing Extracts of the Merchants Letters, written by their own Hands; and partly may be drawn from the Translations of the Proceedings in *Dottors Common*, before the Court of Admiralty; all which here to insert, would be too Voluminous, and even too Superfluous a Work: It is plain, and without any Question, that the several Owners of the said *Suedish* Merchant-ships have their Abode and Families, not in *Suedeland*, but in *France*, *Holland*, *Lubeck*, *Hambourgh*, *Emden*, or *Ostend*; nay, even in *Scotland*; although they go under *Suedish* Passes and Names; wherefore they have *Double Bills* of Lading, and their Goods *double* mark'd, viz. On the Hogsheads of Wine or Brandy, &c. the one Mark on the Bung-hole of the Fatt, being *pro forma*, for the Merchant in *Stockholm*; and the other on the Head of the same Fat, for the right Owner, either at *Lubeck*, *Hambourgh*, *Dunkirk*, &c. By these undeniable Proofs, it appears likewise, what Course was to be taken for Reclaiming such Ships, in case they should have the Misfortune to fall into the *English* Hands, and to be brought in Question in *England*; namely The *Suedish* Merchant did oblige himself to reclaim these Ships and Goods, as being his own, and to stand to all Danger of being made Prizes, on Condition his Correspondence, who were the right Owners thereof, did allow him Two per Cent. to get the Ship and Goods clear under the *Suedish* Name.

S. XII. This having been the Intent and Practice to secure the Concerns of the aforesaid Fleet, the only Customs whereof



whereof will bring in the King Two Hundred Thousand Pounds, and more, any Man of Sense may conclude from thence, of what incredible Advantage this Way of Trading, under pretext of being *Suedish* Ships, and that the Goods belonged to *Sueden*, must have been yearly to *France*; and what irreparable Damage the Allies, on the other side, but chiefly *England*, must have sustain'd during the War; since it may be made good, and proved, if need be, that some Hundreds of Ships, yearly, have come from, or gone to *France*, under *Suedish* Convoys, whereof oftentimes not Ten in an Hundred were real *Suedes*, or did really belong to *Suedish* Subjects, or were actually to unload in *Suedeland*, though they all had *Suedish* Passes; and yet their Goods were to be carried to, and unladen in Places prohibited to entertain any such Commerce.

§. XIII. Hence it has frequently happen'd, that under such Practices, a Ship being seized in *England*, and afterwards reclaim'd by Colour of her Passes, the cunning Contrivance whereof was not a thing so easie to be discover'd hitherto, was discharg'd; which, as abovesaid, did cost the real Owners at *Lubeck*, *Hambourgh*, *Stade*, &c. no more than Two per Cent; whereas the same Ship might have been a very good and lawful Prize here.

§. XIV. But this pretended *Suedish* Fleet is like to pay the Piper, with their Ships and Goods; to which the *English* seem to have more than a single Right and Claim, because, besides the exquisite *French* Wines, Brandy, Molossus, Paper, and other Commodities, which the said Ships are laden with, there are also great Quantities of Indico, Tobacco, Sugar, and some Mullins, on Board them; whereof, the last mention'd Goods have been, for the most part, taken, as Prize, from the *English*, by the *French*; and do, by the Revolutions of Things, now return to their former Owners again.

again. There are also several other Goods, which, under the Name of Merchandizes, were deliver'd to the Masters of the Ships, who took them in, not knowing what they were: Nor can that be discover'd before Search made, Trial and Condemnation.

S. XV. This therefore is the true State of the Case of the pretended *Suedish* Merchant-Fleet, lately brought to *England*, which gives Occasion to so many and various Discourses at present, and for which the *Suedish* Party so grievously complains of hard Usage: Whereof, that the Truth may be known, this short Account will be sufficient for the Reader's Curiosity, and Impartial Judgment.

*Fiat Justitia, & pereat Mundus.*

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Appen-

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# APPENDIX

## OF THE

### Above mention'd LETTERS.

## Numb. 3.

A Letter from *John Died-Doberik*, ( at *Lubeck*, ) written to his Brother *John Conrad Doberik*, ( at present in *London*, ) that he has sold One Eighth Part of *Henry Sculi's Ship* to *Trescow* and *Dreyer*, in *Amsterdam*; and One Eighth Part to *Messieurs Vanderbaguen* and *Rebault*.

## Numb. 5.

A Letter from *Monsieur Vanderbaguen*, of *Bourdeaux*, dated the 2d of *August*, 1696. to *Conrad Doberik*, that his Brother of *Stockholm* has written to *Monsieur Vanderbaguen*, that he had bought a Ship of Two Decks, whereof the said *Monsieur Vanderbaguen* of *Bourdeaux* has One Third Part.

## Numb. 6.

A Letter from *Paulus Hunsburgh*, from *Stralsound*, dated the 30th of *March*, 1697. to *John Conrad Doberik*, in *Bourdeaux*, to buy Ten Pieces of Syrup, with some Wine and Brandy, and insert his Name in the Bills of Lading, that in case of any Miscarriage, the said Goods shall be demanded in the said *Hunsburgh's* Name, as being a Burgher of *Stockholm*.

## Numb. 7.

A Letter from *Bourdeaux*, from *Monsieur Vanderbaguen*, dated the 9th of *March*, 1697. to *Peter Sant*, Master of the *Three Sail-makers*, at *Rochelle*; and Order from his Owners, not to take in any Salt, but Freight; and to advise him to take Freight rather at *Bourdeaux*, than at *Rochelle*: That Skipper *Grobert* comes there, and hath got him a Freight for *Dantzick*; and that Skipper *Cnak* is there, and I offer him

a Freight for *Emden*, of 30 Guilders, and beſſave he'll take it: *Cornelius Wolf*, goes to *Emden* for 30 Guilders; *Conik*, for *Lubeck*, for 25, 30, and 35 Guilders; the *Deargarden*, to *Oſſend*.

## Numb. 8.

A Letter from *Meſſieurs Berend and Schroder*, dated at *Lubeck*, the 27th of *February*, 1697. to *Monſieur John Conrad Doberik*, at *Bourdeaux*: He gives Orders to buy Ten Tuns of Wine, and to be loaded in a *Swediſh Ship*, with Convoy for the leaſt Freight poſſible hither, and under your Brother *Conrad's* Name and Mark, that if it ſhould be taken in *England*, it might be claim'd in the Owner's Names. If Brandy be cheap, to buy him 10 Pieces. You muſt ſend Double Letters, and Bills of Lading; one in your Brother *Conrad's*, and another in my Name; and what it amounts to, draw upon me in *Hambourgh*.

## Numb. 11.

A Letter from *Francis le Feuer*, dated at *Lubeck*, the 10th of *February*, 1697. to *Monſieur John Conrad Doberik*, at *Bourdeaux*, That I have a Letter from your Brother *Conrad Doberik*, that he hath Part in 10 or 12 Ships now with you; and promiſes to reclaim the Goods that ſhall be ſhip'd in *France* for me, if brought up, for Two per Cent. and ſtand to the Clearing of them in *England*; and will have the ſaid Goods ſhip'd on Board 6 or 7 Ships.

## Numb. 34.

A Letter from *John Daniel Klöst and Michael Woeter*, dated at *Lubeck*, the 24th of *February*, 1697. to *John Conrad Doberik*, at *Bourdeaux*: He thanks him, that he permits him to ſend Wine and Brandy in his Brother *Conrad* of *Stokholm's* Name; and deſires him to ſend it in a *Suede's Ship*, and that his Brother will reclaim it.

## Numb. 35.

A Letter from *Conrad Hazentien*, at *Lubeck*, the 4th of *April*, 1697. to *Monſieur John Conrad Doberik*, at *Bourdeaux*; and thanks him that he will, under his own Reclamation, ſend him 4 or 5 Tuns of good Wine, and ſome Brandy; and if it ſhould be taken by any *Engliſh Ship*, &c. that he would reclaim it.

## Numb. 37.

A Letter from *Gerhard Luder*, dated at *Lubeck*, the 8th of *November*, 1696. to *Monſieur John Conrad Doberik*, that if Brandy comes to 60. or 70 Guilders per Piece, to buy him 20 Pieces; but if it keeps at 70. or 75 Guilders, to buy him but 10; and if it cannot be ſent this Winter, to keep it till the Spring. But, Couſin, you muſt let it go in your Name,

*Name, that in case it should be taken, and brought into England, you might reclaim it: Let it be laden in good Ships; Freight must be cheap.*

*Numb. 39.*

A Letter from *John Died Doberik*, dated at *Lubeck*, the 11th of *October*, 1696. to *John Conrad Doberik*, at *Bordeaux*; that if *Monsieur Vanderbaguen*, and my Friends in *Rochelle*, do not take any Part in *Hans Fink's* and *John Stur's* Ships, I cannot help them. I will also give them a Part in a Ship of two Decks, which goes off the *Stocks* 8 Days hence, which is about 150 Lasts: If they will not do so, I must sell it. I am offer'd for Skipper *Hans Fink's* Ship 10000 Mark Lubs, but I cannot take it, unless you will buy me 10 Tuns of Brandy, and draw on me for the Value.

*Numb. 40.*

A Letter from *John Died Doberik*, dated at *Lubeck*, the 22th of *October*, 1696. to *John Conrad Doberik*, at *Bordeaux*; That he is glad he will follow his Directions. First, I will send that Lading which is now in *England*, in my Ship *Pelican*, from *Riga*, to *St. Martin's*, under your Directions. Secondly, I have order'd that *Hans Fink* shall go upon the Owner's Account; and *John Groat* shall load Clap-boards at *Riga*. I have order'd Skipper *Dirrekson* to load Salt, and go to *Dunkirk*; and the second Voyage, to *Bayonne*, and load there.

*Numb. 41.*

A Letter from *Gerhard Luters*, dated the 1st of *April*, 1697. to *John Conrad Doberik*, at *Bordeaux*: I am contented that if you buy 30 Pieces of good *Bordeaux-Brandy*, to take one half Part with you; it must be laden in two or three Ships, and, if possible, your own, that if it should be taken, and brought into *England*, it may be reclaim'd by you.

*Numb. 53.*

A Letter from *Rouen*, dated the 15th of *June*, 1696. from *Monsieur Vanderbaguen*, to *Monsieur John Conrad Doberik*: I have receiv'd yours of the 9th, from *Rochelle*, with the Bills of Lading for Skipper *Ockim Groat*, for 1100 of Salt. who is to come to *Havre de Grace*.

*Item Numb. 48.*

An Agreement, dated at *Bordeaux*, the 18th of *March*, 1697. whereby the Subscribers promise to lade for *Stade*, with a Convoy, on Board the *Sail-makers*, *Peter Sant* Master; The Names whereof are these following *French Merchants*; (1) *Vanderbaguen*, (2) *Ratiere*, (3) *Vander-Brander*, (4) *Dolfgrave*, (5) *Butille*, (6) *Cloyce*, (7) *Lenques*, (8) *Dupre*, n d (9) *Vidercy*.

*Numb.*



*Numb. 99.*  
A Letter, dated at *Bordeaux*, the 24. of *August*, 1695. from *Gerhard Vanderbaguen*, to *John Conrad Doberik*, then at *St. Sebastian*; advising, that *Vanberg* writes, that *Gerhard Petersen* and *Van Coelen* had received Orders from *Andrew Dircksen's* Owners to lade him, if he had taken a freight for *Hambrough*, at 33 Mark Lubs: It would have been better, &c.

*Numb. 116.*

A Letter from *Peter Clerk*, to *John Conrad Doberik*, dated at *Amsterdam*, the 9th. of *July*, 1696, advising, That the *Suedish Convoy* (from *France*) had pass'd the *Chanel*, and was safely arriv'd in the *Sound*; and all the Ships bound both to the *Elbe*, and other places, without any Disturbance that he heard of; which is very happy.

*Numb. 138.*

A Letter dated at *Bordeaux*, the 26th. of *July*, 1696. to *John Conrad Doberik*, then at *St. Sebastian*, advising, that all the Ships that sail'd under the Convoy, are safe arriv'd at *Embsen*, *Bremen*, *Hambourgh* and *Lubeck*; and not one missing. I see you will trust to my Paper for your Account, with which I am satisfied. I thank you, that you will help *Martin Francen*. I have bought a Fly-boat here, of 130 Tuns, for a good Friend; and would gladly let her sail under your Name, on condition, that you should have a certain profit for it; and assuring my self, that you will not refuse me, seeing it can be done without prejudice to you. I have caused the Bill of Sale to be made in your Name, viz. That I have bought the said Ship for your Account and Adventure: Now I would fain have a Skipper come from *Stockholm*, who is a Burgher there, and I judge it to be necessary: First, that a Notarial Bill of Sale be sent over. 2dly, That a Declaration be made before a Notary and Witnesses, that the said Ship doth belong to you. 3dly, That you write a Letter to the Magistrate of *Stockholm*, to grant you a Pass; and 4thly, To write a Letter to *Mr. Conrad*, to send such a Master with a Pass, with Order to follow my Direction, whilst you are in *Spain*. When you come hither, we shall agree what you shall have for each Pass that you shall send for her. The Declaration before a Notary I shall send you to sign, and the Witnesses who subscribe, shall be *Anke Willemson*, *Marcus Begman*, and the Broker, they not knowing otherwise, but that I bought the Ship for your Account; in this manner no Pass can be denied, and when once a Pass is taken out, one may always be had, &c.

A COPY of an Account, which being found amongst the other Ship-Papers and Writings, shews, how Foreign Merchants have made use of the *Suede's Name*, for which the *Suede* was paid *Two per Cent.*

*The Parties concern'd in the Ship St. Paul are to pay the following Charges, on Account of their Goods.*

	Rix-Dollars.
FOR Charges expended in <i>Stockholm, &amp;c.</i> according to the Specification	575 0 0
The Ship did lie 10 Months waiting for the Goods, the Payment whereof to the Ship's Crew, amounts to	1000 0 0
For Board-Wages, and Victuals	750 0 0
Paid to Mr. <i>Visnisk</i>	520 0 0
<i>Item, To Monsieur Grady</i>	200 0 0
The Expences of my Voyage from <i>Stockholm</i> amount to	500 0 0
<i>Item, To return thither.</i>	500 0 0
For my Trouble	1000 0 0
In lieu of the Money, I have taken 5800 Neyens of Salt, à 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Real	870 0 0
To make good the Damage done to the Ship, for the space of 10 Months; as also, the Loss of the Freight within that Time	1000 0 0
	6915 0 0
For our Agreement to let the Value of 16000 Rix-Dollars of the Goods go under our Name, I reckon Two per Cent.	320 0 0
One Quarter Part Freight	1000 0 0

Rix-Dollars 8235 0 0

*Note,*

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That there are five Brothers of the *Dobriks*, who were all born at *Lubeck*; the first whereof, whose Christian Name is *Georg*, did live, and lately died in *Stockholm*; the second, *John Conrad*, has no fixed Abode, but has been these two Years last past in *France*, at *Bordeaux*, *St. Martin*, &c. The third *John Dietz*, lives in *Lubeck*, the fourth *Paul*, at *Amsterdam*; and the fifth, at *Norimberg*. The Fraternal and unanimous Understanding of these five Brothers, living in several remote places, fit for carrying on such a Trade, did engage and draw in a great many Persons in the said unlawful Commerce.

FINIS.